Training & Exercises

Communications Unit Technician (COMT) Training Course	
Type of TA Offering:	Five-Day Course (16 students maximum)
Stakeholders/Audience:	Emergency Response Personnel with a Technical Communications Background

Offering Overview

This class provides introductory and refresher training for the NIMS ICS COMT position. It introduces public safety professionals and support staff to various communications concepts and technologies including interoperable communications solutions, LMR communications, satellite, telephone, data, and computer technologies used in incident response and planned events. It is designed for state/territory, tribal, urban, and local emergency response professionals and support personnel in all disciplines who have a technical communications background.

Participants develop the essential core competencies required for performing the duties of the COMT in an all-hazards incident, including responsibilities while operating in a local, regional, or state-level All-Hazards Incident Management Team.

The course is instructor-led and supports learning through discussion, lecture, and hands-on exercises to explain processes used for establishment and operation of the technical communications resources for an incident or planned event. The course provides a realistic, hands-on approach to mastering the tasks and skills of a COMT.

This class is taught by ICTAP instructors who have both practitioner and Communications Unit experience. Prior to the on-site class, ICTAP staff will work with the requesting site to incorporate communications technologies in use by the participants' agencies. SWICs are encouraged to notify the STO prior to its start to ensure the course is documented.

There must be a minimum of eight vetted/qualified students two weeks in advance of the course in order for CISA to conduct the course.

Prerequisites for Attendance

Personal experience:

- A public safety background with experience in field operations
- A technical communication background
- Awareness of fundamental public safety communications technology
- Basic knowledge of applicable Communications Plan

Completion of the following online courses from the FEMA EMI website:

- IS-100, Introduction to the ICS
- IS-200, ICS for Single Resources and Initial Incidents
- IS-700, National Incident Management System (NIMS), an Introduction
- IS-800, National Response Framework (NRF)
- Familiarity with the pre-course reading materials

SWIC (or designated point of contact [POC]) action:

- Submit a completed student verification form to ICTAP at least 14 days prior to the class.